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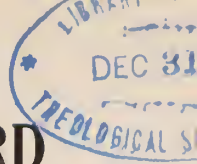
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HERE AND THERE

"Everything went off perfectly this year at the Vacation Colonies," writes Monsieur Guex. "There has been no accident, even trifling, and no serious illness anywhere and the colonies have once again proved their great value for the physical and moral good of the children. The Cooremans, of Bicêtre, passed their vacation at Nemours and took some of their more needy children with them. Living in the rooms of the Nemours *Foyer* does not mean so very much as a holiday experience, though it was much better than nothing. M. Cooreman is most eager that the Mission should possess a country home somewhere for the children of his Sunday School. I pass on his dream to you!"

There were three Vacation Bible Schools last summer, namely, at *La Bienvenue*, in Paris, at Rouen and Amiens. Director Guex writes: "All three were most encouraging and we must certainly seek to develop this movement which not only does so much for the children at the moment, but yields many recruits for the winter Sunday and Thursday Schools."

At Amiens, Mlle Flandrois began her school with only a score of children and had fifty-two at the end.

On the 4th of October, Pastor Maurice Lafon was installed as director of the *Fraternité* at Rouen. The *Fraternité* is taking more and more solid root in the district, a proof both of the capacity and devotion of the young assistant evangelist, M. LeGoff, who has had sole responsibility for the work for a year. Under his direction there has been great progress in discipline and order among the young and in the spiritual growth of the adult members. M. Lafon and his young wife are starting on their task with much enthusiasm.

M. Chastand reports the completion of his new building projects including the enlarged restaurant which in its fine new premises promises not only to take care of itself but even to make a little profit.

In an article on the "Problem of Evangelization in France," Pastor Samuel Connier writes as follows as to the ignorance of the Bible: "*The French nation does not know the Bible.* By law all religious instruction has been banished from the State schools. The Catholic Church has thus in her hands almost the entire charge of the religious education of the children of the country. They learn a Catechism, but nothing from the Bible or the Gospels. The New Testament is almost unknown in France.

"The French people do not know the Person of Jesus. Since they do not read the Gospels, they only know the remote picture, often conventional and far too dogmatically expressed, which is given in the Catechism, or by the preaching and art of the Catholic Church. But the radiant, pure, attractive portrait of the Synoptic Gospels is unknown; very few French people have ever contemplated it. In some quarters the historical existence of Jesus is doubted—more often it is practically ignored.

"In a secular, atheistical form the French nation possesses one side of the evangelic ideal. Why should they go elsewhere to seek for that which they possess already in their revolutionary and democratic tradition; especially when they know that nations which profess a greater measure of Christianity have no higher ideal of justice than their own?

"The critical spirit, the penetrating intelligence of the mass of the people, are both a help and a hindrance in the work of evangelisation. French people do not love hypocrisy—they would rather have scepticism, for they understand only too well the exacting nature of the claims of moral perfection. Thus they tend to swing between two extremes, heroism and scepticism, ardent faith and negation. Pascal the saint and Montaigne the satirist and sceptic symbolize two attitudes between which the French soul will oscillate. The critical spirit often stifles the mystical life."

The following beautiful and appropriate prayer was written by Rev. Warren S. Archibald, D.D., for the Hartford Auxiliary:

"Almighty and all-merciful God, Infinite Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thou who hast made of one blood all men

for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, bless, we beseech Thee, the desires of our hearts and establish the works of our hands. Send forth Thy light through our light, Thy love through our sympathy, Thy life through our labors. Be with Thy servants in Thy fair land of France, and give to them the glory of the illumined mind and the faith of an understanding heart. Deliver us from darkness and lead us into light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the World.

—Amen."

At the Forty-third Annual Meeting, on May 12th and 13th, the American McAll Association will be entertained by the Orange Auxiliary. The sessions will be held in the Hillside Presbyterian Church and the Chairman of the Hospitality Committee is Mrs. H. H. Holding, 18 South Munn Avenue, East Orange, N. J.

It was announced at the Presidents' Conference that, in reward for their long search, the Paris Committee had at last found a new site for their work in the *Faubourg St. Antoine*, about ten minutes on foot from the old hall where so much history has been made during the last forty-five years.

M. Guex writes: "The lot is occupied by the ruins of the house of Mlle de la Vallière, the friend of Louis XIV. As for the building we hope to erect, as far as our plans have gone at present, it will contain on the mezzanine floor a large meeting hall and probably a small apartment for the concierge, while on the first and, perhaps, second floors we shall have class rooms and the evangelist's apartment. We hope also to be able to leave space for a small playground in the rear of the building.

This cheering announcement means that the first draft (\$8000) has been made on the Building Fund. This fund, it will be remembered, was started at the Annual Meeting in Troy, in May, 1924, in response to the urgent desire of the French Committee to extend its work in Paris and its suburbs.

It also means that Pastor and Mme Drancourt, who have already won such a warm place in the hearts of the people of the *Faubourg St. Antoine*, are before long to be provided with a far more suitable and attractive mission plant.

THE DRANCOURTS AT WORK

From every side come testimonies to the devotion and evangelistic successes of the efforts of M. Drancourt who acquired his experience in twenty years of foreign mission work. A recent personal letter from him is full of interesting incidents, all citing the fidelity of the *Faubourg's* converts, even of those who have moved to remote regions and who write him of the way in which they cling to the memories of their joy in the services in the dingy, old hall by singing the familiar favorite hymns and, in the midst of an unsympathetic community, keep their faith strong by reading daily from their Bibles.

A particularly touching incident is that of one of the widows, a former attendant of the Mothers' Meetings, who had been obliged to move outside the walls of Paris. Being taken ill she underwent an operation, but, on being discharged from the hospital, before returning home took a taxi to the old *salle* "in order to thank God for her recovery."

Another story, indicating the love for the place which all its *habitués* feel, is that of a lame man, who was still further crippled by an accident and, in order never to miss a meeting, even though his wife was too busy to come with him, bought a pair of crutches on which he made his way unaided. "These meetings," he said, "are my great joy and my only pleasure in life."

Every summer the Drancourts and their helpers take a goodly group of the *Faubourg* children to the Vacation Colony at *La Bernerie*. Readers of the RECORD are familiar with the testimonies of the McAll workers who get their children away by themselves in the mountains or at the shore as to both the physical and spiritual benefit of these outings. The Drancourts are especially emphatic in regard to the value of the summer days *en famille*.

Mme Drancourt writes of the return of the *Faubourg* children to Paris after their month at *La Bernerie* last summer :

"Mlle Liénard handed over the children to their parents at the station and received many compliments and expressions of gratitude on their appearance. One mother has written us since to testify to her gratitude, adding that she will bring her

children to the *Faubourg* meetings because they are so anxious to see us again, they were so happy with us at *La Bernerie*. It is our hope that still more than the physical benefit we shall find also in these children a permanent, moral and spiritual gain. The supreme advantage of the summer daily contacts is seen in the influence which we are able to exercise on these young and responsive spirits. Alas, it is the grown-ups with whom it is even more necessary to insist on the importance of



THE DRANCOURTS AT LA BERNERIE WITH THE CHILDREN
FROM THE FAUBOURG ST. ANTOINE

life's ordinary virtues as, for example, the avoidance of lying. But the children seize these ideas quickly. In our religious meetings, as in other years, there has been much singing and my husband has also talked much to the children of the love of God and of each one's duty to be responsive to that love. He has urged the point that it is because of God's love for all His children that He provided for them this month at the seashore and that He put it first of all into the hearts of American friends to make this joy possible. Referring to the

children's quick comprehension: After a walk over the rocks we sat down while the children paddled in the water, gathering polished stones and shells. A little girl brought some of her treasures to show us and said to Mlle Liénard: 'How good God is to make things so beautiful! He could just as easily have made them ugly and that would have been too bad because we should have missed the pleasure of admiring them.'

"The evening before we left we were out for another walk. The setting sun was reflected in the sea and the clouds were gleaming purple and gold. Behind us the grey night was descending. Little Marie-Louise suddenly exclaimed: 'There is the sky of Paris, but there in front of us is that of *La Bernerie*—how beautiful it is!'

"These memories will certainly remain in the hearts of our children. They will illuminate the dingy old *salle* in the *Faubourg* and often during the winter I expect to hear someone exclaim, 'At *La Bernerie* we used to do so and so.' Then will follow quickly plans for next summer.

"A mother wrote me this morning: 'We arrived safely



MARKET-HOUR IN THE RUE DU FAUBOURG ST. ANTOINE

home, but we certainly had an unhappy time of it Saturday and Sunday. On reaching home Martha started crying and Lucienne and Robert promptly joined her.' Then after a few lines she adds: 'We went to the meeting (at the *Faubourg*) Sunday night. There were many people and we were so glad to find ourselves among the old friends.'

"We are grateful to receive such testimonies, showing, as they do, how happy our friends have been during their month at the shore, and you may well say to the American friends that all of us, teachers as well as children, who have lived *en famille* the beautiful days in the Vacation Colony, thank them from the bottom of our hearts and regret that each giver cannot see for himself the results obtained."

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM M. SCARABIN

What a beautiful evening last night in the service of the Master! It would have been impossible without the easy and practical means of transport which you gave us. The fifteen persons from Saint-Brieuc and Légué who accompanied us to Châtelaudreu for the inauguration of the *Scmeuse* (portable hall) could have gone by train, but there would have been no train by which they could have returned. The Mission's motor bus picked up everybody at the city gate and brought them all safely back again after an evening in the country—an out-door meeting which lasted more than two hours!

Truly God favored us in this our first effort! Not only was the weather fine but the bus ran beautifully. While on Friday, for example, we had unheard of bad luck with the engine, which seemed determined not to run, yesterday there was not the slightest difficulty. In this material fact we have seen the hand of Him who makes all things work together for good.

At the beginning of the meeting there was some hesitation on the part of the people to come in—during the first half-hour we had only a few children. But Mme Scarabin taught them a couple of hymns which they were brave enough to sing. After this, little by little, other children and some adults entered and by quarter of nine the hall was more than full. We then announced ourselves as messengers of the Gospel, our hall on

wheels as a *Semcuse* open to all. Those who came with us sang a number of hymns. There were many curious ones outside, while inside it was growing very warm. Presently the steps were packed with those wanting to come in, but every corner was occupied, more than a hundred persons having entered. At a quarter past nine the idea came to us to evacuate the hall and to speak to the people from the entrance. Surrounded by our friends from Saint-Brieuc and Ligué we took our stand on the platform. The hymn "Good News" and other hymns were sung. Hundreds of listeners of every rank and class grouped themselves about the motor. For an hour we talked to them of Jesus Christ. When M. M. got up to give his testimony and to tell what Christ had done for him and what He wished to do for everybody the approval was general, the crowd was conquered and there was even applause. When we extended an invitation to all to join us in prayer at the end of the meeting, both the *bourgeois* and the working people, children and young people, uncovered their heads. Most of the women made the sign of the cross. Not for a moment was it a question as between Protestants and Catholics. As Bretons we had come to the Breton, avowing our faith, our hope, our strength in suffering and in temptation. At the end a good-sized crowd gathered about M. M. as he was answering the objections of a priest who had come with the thought of hearing us attack the Roman clergy and who in his disappointment was hoping to propound some difficult questions with the idea of making us appear as controversialists—something we never are.

A beautiful evening, God be praised! We were at home again at eleven o'clock.

And now we are well aware of the opposition which we are in for, but that is discounted. Always I come back to this, namely, that the church is culpable for not nourishing these Breton souls with the Bread of Life. How sad it is to think of these priests who might themselves evangelize these thirsty souls and who have no other nourishment to offer them except the superstitions which leave them so unhappy. Is it any wonder that they find the Gospel beautiful, simple and full of strength? We ourselves have nothing to give that we have

not received, but these poor, deluded priests have received nothing and accordingly have nothing to give.

* * *

I am so glad to be able to send you further good news of our campaign in the portable hall at Châtelaudreu. Sunday we held three meetings in two hours. First, one for the children who came in advance of the older ones and to whom we taught a couple of hymns. Then a meeting for adults who crowded in to the *Scmceuse* leaving many obliged to stand outside and finally a short meeting in which we spoke from the platform to the crowd below. This last out-door meeting was the best of all. The people who had not been able to crowd inside almost fought with each other to climb in by the windows and to find some little corner from which they could hear. As soon, however, as we took our stand by the door everything was quiet and for a half-hour we were listened to in a silence the most religious. Our friends sang another hymn and so ended this memorable occasion.

Tuesday evening we held yet another meeting and, as before, after speaking at first inside the hall, we were obliged to repeat to those outside what we had said. Even then the people were unwilling to leave, crying out, "Tell us still more!"

A word as to my day at Beinic, where I went to see some of the isolated Protestants. At Beinic the priest had just come into the parish. He made some visits, including one upon one of our friends, an aged, well-known woman. "I hope," said the priest, "that I shall have happy relations with all my parishioners." "Father," replied our friend, "I myself shall maintain happy relation with you, but that does not mean as your parishioner, because I am a Protestant." The priest replied, "When I was chaplain of a convent at Saint-Brieuc, there were five English women there who were converted to Catholicism, then became sisters, and I must say that their zeal and their ardor surpassed by much the devotion of our own sisters." "M. le Curé," replied our friend, offended by this thrust, "I know no Protestant who has become Catholic, but I do know two Catholic priests who have become splendid fathers of families and devoted Protestant pastors."



DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT LA BIENVENUE, PARIS. ON THE TERRACE AFTER THE LESSON

THE DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

H. MERLE D'AUBIGNÉ

As the years pass it becomes more and more evident that in order to do effective evangelistic work all possible advantage must be taken of the social instinct.

It is true that a state emphatically laïc, or secular, is forced to restrict the domain in which the social activity of the church may be exerted. Schools, hospitals, organizations for public benefit have all been laïcized in France. The result is that two kinds of misery are left almost entirely untouched: The isolation of aged women, and, above all, the extreme difficulties experienced by a mother of the working class in providing for the physical and moral health of her children. This difficulty is increased ten-fold when the woman so situated is forced to go out to work in order to supplement the inadequate wages of her husband and the "circle" at once the darkest and the hottest in this "Inferno" is the period which for other people constitutes the "Paradise" of the year, namely, the vacation months.

Here is an instance: Mme D. having no children adopted a war orphan. A little later she had a son. Then being left by her husband and not wishing to give up her adopted child to an institution she worked as a laundress in order to gain a livelihood for herself and her two boys. But what should she do when vacation days came?

The Daily Vacation Bible School at *Bienvenue* during the first fortnight of August and the last fortnight of September has afforded a solution in some measure at least to problems of this kind.

The results obtained in 1924 were most encouraging and have been even more so in 1925. The enrollment reached 248, about the same as last year, but while in 1924 the average attendance was 96, last summer it rose to 133.

Our clientele was as motley a collection as the year before, Russians, Serbians, Roumanians, Armenians, Italians, Spaniards, North Africans and a dozen Jews almost all from Poland. These foreigners have less chance than the French of sending their children to the country. The least accessible from the evangelical point of view are the Jews and the most approachable are probably the Spaniards.

The majority of the children are Parisians of Catholic

origin, but for the most part indifferent to all religion, or even hostile, as, for example, a mother of ten children of whom four girls have come regularly, but who declared frankly to one of my helpers that inasmuch as God was talked about at *Bienvenue* she would not send her children to us any more. They will doubtless go to one of the Communistic settlements of the ward and we shall see them carrying the red insignia of the party, though at the same time we do not despair of their coming back to us. The mother did not contradict me when I said to her by way of pleasantry that I did not think I had the air of a priest! If her children should return to us next summer the chances are that they would follow the example of a little group who left us last winter, but who came back to stay the year following.

This year we added two new attractions which proved a great success. First a library of illustrated books, the gift of a faithful friend of the Mission, Miss L. H. Greene, of Philadelphia. Perraud, Jules Verne, Rabier, Bécassine attracted about forty readers and provided a useful diversion from the out-door plays and the manual training.

But our terrace remains our greatest attraction. To our old swings we have added a small merry-go-round, which is much in favor with our young public. The garden with its sandbox makes the little ones happy. Mme K. found some little girls there in their bloomers and bare feet one day. "What are you doing in that costume?" she asked. "Oh, Madame, we are having a good time," answered one of them in a happy but pleading tone, "we are playing 'at the sea-shore'!" Meanwhile the boys had overturned an old bench and were rowing away for all they were worth!

Our *Bienvenue* is truly the children's paradise we had hoped to make it. As a little one said to his grandmother who brought him, "We do not go to school, we go to the country and that is so much better. And, we do not have to take a train!"

I have talked a good deal about the means used to attract the children, but it goes without saying that the main purpose is not purely hygienic. It has given us much joy to talk of the life of our Saviour and His first disciples to these children many of whom were hearing this story for the first time. Forty-

three of them, attracted to *Bienvenue* by the Vacation School, were later enrolled in the regular Thursday School.

The value of the Daily Vacation Bible School has been more than confirmed by our experience and we rejoice to see



THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS AT LA BIENVENUE

this missionary institution beginning to take a foothold in France. Already it has been inaugurated at Lille, Hénin-Liétard, Avions, near Lens, at the Rouen *Fraternité*, at the *Maison Fraternelle* in Amiens and doubtless elsewhere.

The last two weeks of September have proved to be the best period in the summer for the evangelization of the children of our great working-men's sections and that even when as at *Bienvenue* more than half of the regular children have been sent to the country.

AN EVANGELISTIC WEEK AT MARSEILLES

JACQUES KALTENBACH

Stirring meetings were held in the *salle* in the rue Chemin de l'Argile last month. After having sought without success the co-operation of several pastors, I wrote to M. Sabliet, the general secretary of the Young People's Christian Union and a

man of extraordinary piety. On Sunday the group of the Knights of *La Cause* went through the neighborhood of the *salle*, singing, speaking in the open, selling Gospels and distributing prospectuses. The result was that the day following at the first meeting the hall was overflowing with hearers and many persons had to be content with standing-room in the street. It was the same the two evenings following.

Among the auditors there were many who had either regularly or irregularly attended the hall, and also persons we had never seen before. From the first evening I was struck by seeing at the door a man of large frame and intelligence who evidently did not wish to come inside. By his side was his young wife. He kept on coming always without taking a seat and demanding to shake the hand of M. Sabliet to thank him for his words. On the third day I tried to find out who he was, but he did not seem to care to make himself known, saying simply, "I am a Catholic."

A rag-picker who was passing before the door, loaded with his bags, set them down and came to the meeting, staying to the end and leaving with his eyes full of tears. The day following he came again, threw his sack and pick down in the corner and took his place at the door.

Our last meeting was a very moving one. M. Sabliet had insisted on the necessity of everyone deciding for or against Christ. He announced the final hymn saying that those who were resolved to follow Jesus were invited to remain. During the singing not one person left. M. Biau who was presiding then said, "We shall close our meeting with prayer. Then we shall sing another hymn and only those who desire to serve Jesus Christ will remain." Not a soul stirred. It was extremely impressive. Again M. Biau said, "You understand, of course, the significance of your act—you, young woman, are you determined to be a Christian?" "Oui, Monsieur." "And you?" "Oui, Monsieur!" "And you?" "Oui, Monsieur!" "Well, then," added M. Biau, "I am going to repeat phrase by phrase a short prayer and all of you who wish to make it yours will please repeat it after me"—"Lord Jesus, I am a poor sinner"—and from all sides of the room, in low voices, those present took up the words, "Lord Jesus, I am a poor sinner"—"But I wish to give myself to Thee. Teach me to do Thy

will." Everyone repeated these words, after which, without any excitement, but in a profound calm, the meeting was closed.

These gatherings have had an immediate result in the organization of a little group of young women. Having found it difficult to talk on religious subjects with the people I visit at their homes, because of the promiscuous coming and going which is the rule in working-men's houses, I asked Mlle Vasseur to gather together the girls who had been reached by our meetings. This she did, speaking to them intimately of prayer and of the reading of the New Testament. Then being obliged to leave Marseilles she asked a friend to carry on her work. This friend I have seen since and she tells me how she is struck with the ignorance but also with the good will and desire for instruction which the group manifests. For the moment these meetings occur every two weeks, but the members of the group are asking that they should take place each week. Between times they read certain chapters of the Gospel which have been marked for them and the next meeting consists in explaining to them whatever they have not understood. One of them, who cannot read, although eighteen years old, is doing her studying with a friend better instructed.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE ORPHAN HOME AT CHÂTILLON-SUR-SEINE

MME A. ROUSTAIN

Each year the number of orphans increases and each year we see more distinctly and with gratitude all the good that comes out of the Christian training they receive at the *Villa Bonne Humeur*.

This summer sixty-six children spent from a fortnight to two months in the beautiful house they call their own home! The two new dormitories enabled us to receive more children than ever and the pleasure felt by those who look after them increases with the number. Will you come on tip-toe and listen, unobserved, to the evening prayers of twelve little girls in one of the larger dormitories? In each you will hear the confession of some disobedience or of an unkind act committed during the day. You will be touched by the loving prayer sent up to God for a dear mamma left at home, or some sick rela-

tive or friend. And then you will hear the bright voices singing a favorite hymn or two before sleep closes the eyes. Several of these girls spent the entire year in the home and their evening prayer and song testify to the Christian training they received. Without realizing it, they are a great help to us in the example they set to the other children.

One of our small boys asked me one day, "Why do you say grace before dinner?" When told that it was to thank God



IN THE DOORWAY AT CHÂTILLON-SUR-SEINE

for the food He sends, Clovis exclaimed, "Well, then, it is not He who sends it to us at home, because we never say grace," adding, "When I go home, I shall tell mother to say 'thank you' before our meals." So a little boy of five will carry the good news of the Heavenly Father's love into the poor home where he lives.

When told of many children whose parents are too poor to send them into the country, our boys and girls volunteered to give up their dessert for a week in order to give some others the joy they themselves were having. Two boys who had each

received five francs from their mother for their month's pocket money brought the precious gift to increase the total sum.

There were many wet days last summer when the long walks, picnics and swimming had to be given up, but no one at Châtillon ever seems sad or to find the days long. We divide the children into two groups, according to their ages. Stories are read to them, games of all sorts are played and the shouts of laughter accent their happiness. One little girl wrote to her mother, "Oh, mother, if only you knew how lovely it is here; we have never spent such holidays before. It is not only *La Villa Bonne Humeur* (the house of good humor), it is *La Villa Radieuse*—everybody is happy here!"

During the last week a play was given in which each child had a share, even the smallest ones participating.

The holidays were brightened by the visits of several American friends. Without naming these individually, I should like to send the thanks of the children and of my helpers in the Home to all of these friends, as well as my deep gratitude for the continued and loving help received from your side of the sea for our dear orphans.

BICÊTRE

J. COOREMAN

The various branches of our work have given us much joy. We feel we can truthfully say that there is progress at Bicêtre both in numbers and in spiritual growth.

Our meetings on Saturdays for the old people from the Vincennes Poor House are always well attended and we sell every month from eighty to a hundred religious papers. Several of our old friends ask us to visit them. There would be a great field of labor, but very exacting and one we cannot actually hope to cover.

The children come in greater numbers. They are better behaved and more attentive. Much hope is held out to us from a class of twelve to fourteen *catechumens*.

The Sunday evening meetings are not all that we could wish. However, as we have given these more and more a "family" character the public is easier to attract. Some of the

people from the Poor House have begun to attend these services also.

Mine Cooreman, who has had more time at her disposition this year, has given us much help and her work with the boys has resulted in more regular gatherings for play, lectures, singing and manual training.

I received some time ago a call from one of the three priests of the parish of Bicêtre. He expressed to me his appreciation of our evangelical work. I cannot report in full this conversation which lasted for an hour and a half. I will mention only that which he said concerning the population which we reach: "You attract especially the souls who have broken with the Catholic tradition. I do not know if you will succeed in holding these, that will be difficult * * * As for the rest, your work awakens their serious thought, especially among the young people." We gathered from these few words that we are regarded as a sort of spiritual refuge for both classes.

Some days ago I had occasion to watch the efforts and trials of a group of colporteurs in our busy market at Bicêtre.



BICÊTRE—"THE HALT, THE MAIMED AND THE BLIND," FROM VINCENNES

The young men, members of *La Cause*, faced the violent and even brutal opposition of a group of young Communists who finally forced them to abandon their missionary effort. This region has the reputation of being especially hostile to any religious propaganda * * * I am not very surprised!

The location of our building, near the Poor House and the cemetery, affords us an opportunity for special service. Being so near by, Protestant families who lose a grandmother or grandfather, or who have a sick member in the sanatorium for tuberculosis, come to us for religious help, which, alas, they do not otherwise often seek. Several of these families after one of these funeral services have decided to renew their bonds with their respective churches.

Here are some instances of individual faith which our influence has produced in the souls of many, even though this faith be very vague at the beginning.

For months a woman, who still remains "the unknown" to us, came to our Sunday evening meetings, sat down in a corner, listened with acute attention to our talk, and after the prayer left almost hurriedly. Only these last few Sundays has she proved a little more accessible and taken time to greet us and to buy the religious papers. We will know, I hope, some day whether this soul has accepted the Gospel. * * *

A Russian woman, the widow of a Russian general who was a victim of the Bolshevik revolution, alone in Paris with her overwhelming grief, comes from time to time to our meetings, which she "loves dearly," as she says.

M. M. blind from birth, a little taciturn, a delicate soul, says in a few words that he has understood everything and that *he feels* the great spiritual truths and the consolations which God gives to His children.

M. B. father of a large Protestant family, the children weak and sickly, is happy to "find some co-religionists," but his dejection, due to a life full of trouble and care, seems to leave little possibility of concentration and understanding on his part.

The family M. of Alsatian origin (again reformed Protestants), the parents, the mother, to be exact, "tied to her load," cannot break away to attend our meetings, but wish the children to have religious instruction. The children have

come to us regularly and after some hesitation have little by little opened their hearts. Two of them are among our *catechumens* and a little girl especially gives us much joy.

The same is the case in the families of B. P. and M. In the latter the father expressed to us his fear for the character of his child. "I count on you to guide and help her," he said.

The family M. whose child, our bright *catechumen*, will be, by God's help, our precious collaboratrice in some years. She is finding herself gradually in a religious life that is very real and her influence on her young comrades is already manifest.

The grandmother's influence has done its work in the family of C. The oldest of the children left us to receive his first communion after eighteen months' faithful attendance. Three younger children still come to us and the parents are very persistent in their assurance that this break is only temporary. But that is not what we want. We could wish that our friends took a more energetic and loyal stand. However, there are indications of real sympathy which some day will bear fruit.

Thus it happened also to young E. B. who left us for the same reason, but who finally came back to us with greater fidelity than ever.

The family D. is a mixed marriage. The ceremony had been performed, without much sincerity, according to the Catholic Church. For several years the young woman who had left her Protestant Church in Switzerland had many hours of sadness and remorse. Circumstances brought them one day in a very unexpected way on the road to our *salle*. With her husband and full of real emotion she comes to our meetings. After our first call she told me her story and asked my advice. I told her simply that one must always follow one's conscience, recalling the teaching of the Gospel that Jesus is more than the priest and the Gospel itself larger than any particular church. Her soul was set free, the husband made happy and the decision is a final one. There is joy in their hearts, the memory of their cowardice has vanished and Jesus has saved them as they realize His desire to be the sole master.



M. COOREMAN WITH HIS VACATION COLONY AT NEMOURS

A GREETING FROM THE NEW LIAISON OFFICER

DEAR AMERICAN FRIENDS:

I am more than happy at the privilege of working with you and pray that God will help me to be a good liaison agent between you and our beloved McAll Mission.

In 1917, I witnessed, full of emotion, the coming of the first American soldiers to France and saw many of them settled in their temporary French homes among families who begged for them and took them in as beloved sons. For their part they soon learned to love the country they had crossed the ocean to protect.

I passed through the Bois de Belleau twenty-four hours after the battle there and when the Y. M. C. A. settled in Château Thierry I was the first woman among the Allies to enjoy a cup of your strengthening cocoa.

I attended the opening of several of your hospitals in Angers, in Beauvais and elsewhere and helped your generous compatriots to distribute food and clothing.

The only meeting we had in the *Préfecture* of Beauvais under the threat of shells was the celebration of your Memorial Day among your soldiers.

France understood and bowed low from the beginning before the magnificent gesture of your young men coming to help us protect our cradles and our tombs.

Come and see how we live, share our lives, the lives of our families, our peasants, our artists, our savants—not the lives of the *nouveaux riches* of Paris, who lead "*la grande vie*," while their country, as it struggles up again, needs all our energies. These are not the true French people.

The real French love you and will never forget America's kindness and help. Thank you for giving me personally a chance to prove this.

H. FABRE-CHAPONNIÈRE

COMITÉ DE SECOURS

Mrs. James C. Colgate, National Director
270 Park Avenue, New York City

ELIZABETH DEPOT

Mrs. David M. Miller, Secretary

Contributions of Clothing, Food, etc., Should Be Sent to
907 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, N. J.

Correspondence Should Be Addressed to
1037 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, N. J.

The Comité de Secours is happy to report the shipment of ten cases—six in October and four in November—valued at \$1895. They were all labeled "Cadeaux de Noël," for we had been informed by the Director of the Transport Line, that these magic words would facilitate delivery in Paris.

Two of the cases were given by the Washington Auxiliary expressly for use at St. Quentin. One of them contained clothing and the other was filled with dolls.

Besides the dolls, scrap books, games, toys and Christmas packages forwarded in the other cases, there was a considerable quantity of beautiful clothing, as well as pillows and crib blankets. Some of these articles had been taken from "a trunk of treasures."

Twenty pairs of woolen stockings, all knit by one contributor, will do much to protect the feet of several little French folk.

Children in a Sunday School made and gave five hand woven baskets, three dresses, two dolls and eight scrap books, and added to this gift of their handiwork some stuffed animals and a red ball.

Accompanying a doll's blanket was the following note: "Made by M. H. H., four years old, 'for a little French child.' It is sent not as having value, but because she worked hard and was interested."

JULIA C. MILLER

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

With the Juniors at the Presidents' Conference
Gene Simmonds

"We have instituted a new era for the Junior McAll and have undertaken a great responsibility to make the success of our endeavors measure up to our hopes and ideals, but we have started in upon our course with high hearts and much faith."

—*Gertrude Quick in November, 1925, RECORD*

In preparation for the Presidents' Conference, on November 13th, the National Junior McAll Committee met the afternoon before and decided to limit discussion the next day to the three topics, religion, auxiliary organization and budget.

Following Miss Congdon's stirring talk on the Vacation Colonies, the Juniors withdrew from the Conference for their own meeting.

The devotional service was led by the chairman, who chose her scripture passage from the Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 5, 1-11, comparing our organization to the Galilean fishermen who had "toiled all the night" and "taken nothing," challenging us to say with them, "Nevertheless at thy word we will let down the net." Then followed a time of listening and of prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The reports from the presidents were read.

The first question taken up in the business meeting was that of better organization in the auxiliaries and it was decided to recommend to each organization the appointment of seven committees, following the plan originating in Buffalo and suc-

cessfully adopted in Philadelphia, and constituting the method of the National Junior Committee, as adopted on May 26th last and outlined in the RECORD for November, 1925.

The momentous question of budget was then discussed. At the May meeting the Juniors had voted to make the Vacation Colonies the sole interest for the current year, which meant assuming entire financial responsibility for the maintenance of the colonies. The amount contributed by the Juniors last year was only about half enough for this purpose, the upkeep and running expenses of the colonies calling for about four thousand dollars. To put the present properties all in first-class shape, to increase their number, and thus enable many more children to share in the benefit of a summer in the mountains or by the sea, calls for a round sum of \$10,000.

It was rather a large contract to assume, but keeping the Galilean fishermen in mind, we decided that like them we must "push out into the deep" and dare great things, confident that this was what God wanted us to do and that so long as we followed His will we should be sure of success.

Accordingly, the following resolution was adopted:

That the Juniors make every effort to raise \$10,000 actually needed for the maintenance and necessary improvements of the Vacation Colonies during the year 1925-1926.

The last but most important discussion was that of the religious side of our Junior Auxiliaries' programs. We all felt that one weakness in our work was that we did not emphasize the power of Christ to do the extraordinary and humanly impossible things which must be done if we are to accomplish the tremendous task before us. We agreed that we must try to win individuals one by one to Christ and not to McAll, for, once their hearts are filled with the love and spirit of Christ, they will realize the privilege of being able to serve these little children of His.

A second resolution was, therefore, added, namely:

That the Juniors, realizing their inadequacy to put over the task before them, give special attention to the spiritual side of their program, opening all auxiliary meetings with a devotional service and having speakers who are in touch with young people come to them from time to time.

NATIONAL JUNIOR AUXILIARY CHAIRMEN

1925—1926

<i>Executive Committee</i>	MISS GENE SIMMONDS Calvary Parish House 104 East Twenty-second Street New York
<i>Extension Committee</i>	MISS ELIZABETH CONGDON (New Groups: Boarding Schools and Colleges) c/o Mrs. James C. Colgate 270 Park Avenue New York
<i>Sunday School Committee</i>	MRS. AUGUST HEITMAN, JR. (Young People's Work, Churches) 243 Seventy-ninth Street Brooklyn, N. Y.
<i>Program Committee</i>	MISS GERTRUDE V. QUICK 4023 Pine Street Philadelphia, Pa.
<i>Publicity Committee</i>	(Temporarily) MISS ELIZABETH CONGDON (Including all general Junior data, Junior leaflets, McALL RECORD, Newspaper clip sheets, etc.) c/o Mrs. James C. Colgate 270 Park Avenue New York
<i>Fram Committee</i>	MRS. HENRY W. LEBOUTILLIER (Children's Auxiliaries) Drexel Hill, Pa.
<i>Sewing-and-Patterns Committee</i>	MRS. K. M. SEARLE 80 Adams Street New Britain, Conn.

One thing has struck me in reading your reports, a thing which to some might appear less important than the fifty-one proselytes added in three years to the St. Quentin church, and the election as presbyterial counsellor in that church of a man who, four years ago, was entirely ignorant of the Gospel; or even the development of organizations of scouts, guides, etc., which are the nurseries for our Christian Unions; or the medical visits paid by our visiting nurses; and this thing which is so encouraging is that very often one can note facts which prove that the spirit of helpfulness and brotherhood and thus the Christian spirit is seen developing amongst the adults and children. These signs are manifest in the visits made by our young girls to the forlorn in hospitals; a Christmas tree prepared for the poorest children in a neighborhood by a troop of girl guides at their own expense; or the children of a Sunday School who deny themselves dainties to send money to foreign

missions or a young people's union that adopts a pupil in Madagascar! I pass over much to conclude that with the development of the spirit of prayer and that of sacrifice appears the surest indication that God is at work and that *La Mission Populaire* continues to be a means of grace in His hands.

—*Director Guex to the Delegates at the Last Annual Meeting in Paris.*



The Mission's Staff at Rouen. Left to right—PASTOR MAURICE LAFON, MME LAFON, MLE ZUMBACH, MME AND PASTOR RENÉ LEGOFF

M. Lafon was installed as the new director the first week of October and already, M. Guex writes, has won the sympathy of both his co-workers and his clientele. "After passing the first three years of his ministry in the Reformed Church—a very different proposition from his present métier—he is adapting himself to his new task most beautifully. He is a man of faith, of courage, of good heart and of determination. His wife is his comrade and helper in all that he does."

Readers of the RECORD know the story of M. LeGoff, a Breton trained by M. Chastand in the *Fraternité* at Nantes and who during the year that the Rouen *Fraternité* has been without a director-in-chief has not only held the work together, but given it a new impulse and a prestige from both of which M. Lafon will profit as he assumes the directorship.

HOME DEPARTMENT

**Presidents'
Conference**

The Presidents' Annual Conference was held on Friday, November 13th, in the rooms of the New York Bible Society, and was voted by all present as one of the most stimulating—one of the very best ever. Twenty of the eastern Auxiliaries were represented by over fifty delegates, besides the Junior representatives, and as heretofore there was much valuable informal discussion of the vital problems confronting the Association.

Miss Elizabeth Congdon told the story of her weeks among the stations of the Mission, in particular of her impressions and reactions in visiting the Vacation Colonies and the Orphan Home. There were few dry eyes when she had finished and many delegates made dates with her for repetitions of the story in their various Auxiliaries.

Mrs. Henry P. Loomis once again stirred the sympathies of all for those who suffer in France, making a sharp discrimination between the politicians and the widows and orphans who have nothing to do with statecraft, but who by the hundred thousand are in dire need.

Mrs. Miller, Secretary of the Comité de Secours, moved all hearts by the recital of her visits to the devastated north and elsewhere, noting especially her joy in going to the *Vestiaire* where the hundreds of boxes packed by her had been received and in seeing on the backs and on the feet of little children here and there the garments and shoes which had passed through the Elizabeth depot.

This fall Conference is becoming more and more a clearing-house for the interchange of valuable suggestions and ideas among the Auxiliary officers. The dominant note was one of encouragement.

Orange

The Auxiliary has sustained a heavy loss in the death on November 24th of Miss Codey, for twenty-nine years its treasurer. No one could have exceeded Miss Codey in intelligent devotion and tireless zeal. Her heart was so deeply enlisted in the success of her work—her Master's work—that no slightest detail which might have meant even a trifling loss ever escaped her. Through long months of suffering and greatly reduced strength she nevertheless maintained her enthusiasm and almost to the last kept the books of the

Auxiliary. Her example and memory will be a constant challenge to her successor.

At their first fall meeting the members of the Auxiliary presented her with a loving cup inscribed with the simple words which tell at once of the appreciation of her co-workers and of their personal affection:

PRESENTED TO
SARAH M. CODEY
By the

Orange Auxiliary of the American McAll Association
In Grateful Appreciation of Her Years of Devoted Service
and Labor of Love

Buffalo The November Managers' Meeting in Buffalo, held in the home of the Secretary of the Auxiliary, Miss Anne Burrows, was turned into a "Surprise Party" for the hostess. Miss Burrows has served in her present capacity for thirty-three years, the fact having been discovered by the new President, Mrs. C. C. Slaght, while looking through the Auxiliary records by way of qualifying herself the better for her new responsibility. Nearly fifty of the members of the Managers' Executive Committee were present in the handsome, old-fashioned, down-town home.

After Miss Buck had told the story of her recent trip to France, including a visit to the home of her orphan, Mrs. Holland and others paid their tributes of love to Miss Burrows and Mrs. Hauenstein, the poet of the Auxiliary, read "Anne Burrows," written for the occasion.

A letter from the President of the National Association was also read and an accompanying token presented. A beautiful suit case from the McAll group was included in the gifts.

The RECORD would add its modest word of appreciation to those of Mrs. Slaght "for fidelity" and express the hope that the relationship which has lasted so long may continue yet many years to come.

Springfield Following the notice in the November RECORD of Miss Stevens's death, it is a pleasure to announce the election of the new President, Mrs. John P. Lyman. Mrs. Lyman, who succeeded from the first

Vice-Presidency, has been one of the most prominent members of the Auxiliary for a number of years.

Mrs. W. S. C. Russell, another devoted member of the Auxiliary, was elected First Vice-President and Mrs. Willard A. Boyd, Second Vice-President. The Treasurer and Secretary under Miss Stevens continue in office.

The "confidence" expressed in the last RECORD, "that the vacant Presidency would soon be filled by someone who would feel the weight and inspiration of Miss Stevens's mantle and continue her work," is thus more than justified and the promptness of the Springfield group is commended to all Auxiliaries which suffer similar losses.

Boston

Last June the Boston Auxiliary sustained a heavy loss in the death of Miss Sophie Moen, long a member of the Auxiliary and one of its Vice-Presidents. She was always interested in the work of the McAll Mission and was a generous contributor. The Auxiliary will miss her sorely, as it will also miss the gracious hospitality and generosity of Mrs. Albert Gay, of Brookline, who from its organization until her death in September, was one of its most devoted members.

Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Auxiliary is in the midst of a series of "Vanishing Luncheons." The story runs thus. The first luncheon was given by a woman who entertained sixteen friends, each of whom pledged herself to entertain eight; each of the eight to entertain four, and each of the four, two. There the series disappears—"vanishes." Each guest pays fifty cents for her lunch. A few moments' use of your pencil will reveal the result in money and the number of women reached—1680 women, \$840!

At the Twenty-fifth Anniversary last spring, it was voted to raise one thousand dollars as a memorial to Clara Peabody Crocker who was the first President of the Minneapolis Auxiliary and served twenty-three years until her death in August, 1923. The highest expression of appreciation her friends can offer is to carry forward the work she loved and laid down, emulating her unflinching faith and persistent perseverance.

**Mrs. Peabody's
New Pamphlet**

Attention is again called to the collection of stories of the Christmas fêtes, "Our Duty to France," edited by Mrs. Henry W. Peabody. There are still some copies left of the edition of 5000 which may be had on application at the Bureau, in Philadelphia, or at the New York office. Officers and managers who are looking for good stories to tell in Sunday Schools will find far more than fifteen cents' worth in this charming, illustrated, little pamphlet which might well be bought in bulk and distributed among persons it is desired to interest in the Mission.

Hartford

The following letter which was sent to all contributors of the Hartford Auxiliary and signed by the President, Vice-President and Treasurer is given as a 100 per cent. example of a business-like method of appeal.

Once more the Officers and Board of Managers of the Hartford McAll Auxiliary submit an approximate budget for the coming season, and we urge its careful consideration and study.

In explanation of the continued great need for help we quote from the latest leaflet issued by the National Association: "The disorganization in French life, national, family and personal, caused by the late great conflict, is beyond the imagination of all who have not seen with their own eyes and heard with their own ears. From the Channel to the Mediterranean, from the Bay of Biscay to the French Alps, France needs the gospel of consolation, of new hope."

During the winter the Hartford Auxiliary hopes to offer the following program of activities, some of which we trust will appeal to each member.

Four sewing meetings for the continuation of relief work, with informal talks on the work in France.

Two or more regular meetings (some in private homes), with interesting speakers, among whom will be Mrs. David M. Miller, who has supervised and packed for final shipment every one of the hundreds of boxes sent to France during the last ten years from the Elizabeth depot.

Two Lenten lectures on "Two Great French Saints," St. Louis and St. Joan of Arc, by Rev. Warren S. Archibald, D.D.

The annual dues are now payable. What we most want is your continued interest; if, however, you feel that you would like to make an additional gift at this time, we should be most grateful; no amount is too small. Last year at our French Fête we made through your generosity and hard work \$1816. If the response to this appeal is sufficiently generous at this time, we shall not have to undertake any large entertainment later in the year.

Give what you can.

Approximate Budget

Materials for Relief Work	\$300
Continued Support of Sixteen War Orphans at \$36 per year	576
Customary Gift to Old Hartford Hall at <i>Faubourg St. Antoine</i> , Paris	600
Usual Gift to Mission Funds	800
Pledge We Wish to Make at National Convention, May, 1926	1,300
To Meet the Unexpected Requests	300
Contingent Fund (Postage, Printing, Rentals, etc.)	200
	\$4,076

Hartford Juniors With the aid of a peculiarly efficient motor corps, depositing its collections at four depots, the Hartford Juniors recently conducted a Rummage Sale which in two days brought in sufficient money to pay their pledge, made last May at the Philadelphia Annual Meeting, toward the Vacation Colony work.

**Lantern Slides
and Films** The Field Secretary's loan sets of slides and the reels of motion pictures of the activities of the Vacation Colonies and Boy Scouts are still to be had on application to Mr. Berry, at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION FROM
AUXILIARIES AND CHURCHES

October 8—December 8, 1925—\$6,952.04

MASSACHUSETTS, \$291.00		PENNSYLVANIA, \$1,626.50	
Andover Circle	\$15 00	Easton Auxiliary	\$203 00
Boston Auxiliary	180 00	Philadelphia Auxiliary	1,347 50
Lexington	42 00	Philadelphia Children's Auxil-	
Pittsfield Auxiliary	54 00	iary (Rainbow Club of	
		Wayne)	20 00
CONNECTICUT, \$1,556.00		Sewickley Auxiliary	36 00
Hartford Auxiliary	\$718 00	West Chester Auxiliary	20 00
Hartford Junior Auxiliary ...	36 00		
Meriden Auxiliary	66 00	MARYLAND, \$137.00	
New Britain Auxiliary	36 00	Baltimore Auxiliary	\$137 00
New Britain Children's Auxil-			
iary	36 00	ILLINOIS, \$5.00	
New Haven Auxiliary	636 00	Chicago	\$5 00
Norwich Auxiliary	28 00		
NEW YORK, \$1,526.31		OHIO, \$25.00	
Brooklyn Auxiliary	\$111 00	Dayton Auxiliary	\$25 00
Brooklyn, A Friend	16 00		
Buffalo Auxiliary	190 00	MINNESOTA, \$100.00	
Buffalo Junior Auxiliary ...	104 54	Minneapolis Auxiliary	\$100 00
Ithaca Circle	275 77		
New York Auxiliary	617 00	IOWA, \$18.00	
Rochester Auxiliary	36 00	Sioux City Auxiliary	\$18 00
Troy Auxiliary	54 00		
Utica Friends	122 00	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, \$519.56	
		Washington Auxiliary	\$519 56
NEW JERSEY, \$834.06		CALIFORNIA, \$5.00	
Belvidere Auxiliary	\$212.56	San Diego	\$5 00
Elizabeth Relief Depot	10 00		
Montclair Auxiliary	180 00	FLORIDA, \$36.50	
Orange Auxiliary	209 50	Gainesville	\$36 50
Plainfield Auxiliary	36 00	Old Bennington Opportunity	
Princeton Circle	150 00	Club	\$25 00
Roebing	36 00	Per Sale "Our Debt to France"	16 91
		Per Sale Christmas Cards ...	230 20

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR REAL ESTATE

I do give and devise to the American McAll Association
the following described property.

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR PERSONAL ESTATE

I do give, devise and bequeath to the American McAll
Association the sum of _____ dollars.

THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

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First Vice-President

MRS. JAMES C. COLGATE, 270 Park Avenue, New York

Second Vice-President

MRS. GEORGE E. DIMOCK, 907 N. Broad St., Elizabeth, N. J.

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" Rue Cronstadt 45.....	Mlle PREVOST-BROUILLET

MISSION BOATS

<i>La Bonne Nouvelle</i>	M. HÉBERT
<i>Le Bon Messager</i>	M. CHOLLET

MOVABLE HALLS AT

Bicêtre and St.-Nazaire

VACATION COLONIES

<i>La Bernerie</i> (Loire Inf.)	<i>Les Vallées</i> (Indre-et-Loire)
<i>Châtillon-sur-Seine</i> (Côte-d'Or)	<i>La Rayée</i> (Vosges)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE MISSION

1 Rue Pierre Levée (Avenue de la République)